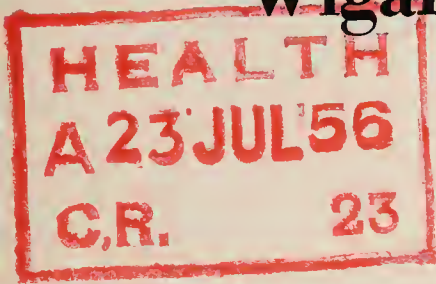


Library

Wigan Rural District Council



Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1955



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b30277395>

Wigan Rural District Council

Chairman :

I. CROPPER, ESQ. J.P.

Vice-Chairman :

N. GASKELL, ESQ.

Councillors :

J. H. GILL, ESQ.

J. K. HODGE, ESQ.

W. A. RIGBY, ESQ.

J. SCHOFIELD, ESQ.

MRS. M. M. TARBUCK

W. THOMPSON, ESQ.

Clerk :

ROBERT GASKELL, F.C.C.S., F.A.C.C.A.

Staff Public Health Department :

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :

G. H. POTTER, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Engineer, Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector :

J. HOLDING

Water Inspector :

H. CARRINGTON

10, BRIDGEMAN TERRACE,

WIGAN.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Wigan Rural District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting to you the Annual Report on the health of the District, compiled, as in previous years, in the form indicated by the Ministry of Health.

I take this opportunity of tendering my best thanks to the Officials of the Council, the Staff of the Health Department, and especially to the Sanitary Inspector, for valuable help and co-operation at all times.

I desire also to express to the Members of the Council my appreciation of the courtesy and consideration they have always displayed towards me.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

G. H. POTTER.

JULY, 1956.

Wigan Rural District Council

1.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA :

Area : 11,695 acres.

Population (Census 1951)	8,213
Estimated mid-1955 (Registrar-General)	8,360
Number of Inhabited Houses at end of 1955—	
according to Rate Book	2,640
Rateable Value	£50,447
Sum Represented by a Penny Rate	£198

The chief industries of the Wigan Rural District are agriculture, stone quarrying, glue manufacture, bleaching and dyeing, brick manufacture, malt extract manufacture and linoleum manufacture. Certain districts are mainly residential.

VITAL STATISTICS.

	M.	F.	Total.
Live Births (Legitimate)	71	76	147
(Illegitimate)	1	1	2
TOTAL	72	77	149
Still Births (Legitimate)	—	—	—
(Illegitimate)	—	—	—
TOTAL	—	—	—
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age :			
(Legitimate)	5	3	8
(Illegitimate)	—	—	—
TOTAL	5	3	8
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age :			
(Legitimate)	4	3	7
(Illegitimate)	—	—	—
TOTAL	4	3	7
DEATHS			77
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population mid-1955			18.0
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population mid-1955			9.9

T A B L E I.

	INFANT MORTALITY.												
	Live Births		Deaths (all causes)		Stillbirths		Maternal Mortality		TOTAL			Neo-Natal	
									No. of Deaths Regd.	Rate per 1,000 Live Births	No. of Deaths Regd.	Rate per 1,000 Live Births	No. of Deaths Regd.	Rate per 1,000 Live Births
Year 1955	No. Regd.	Rate per 1,000 pop'n.	No. Regd.	Rate per 1,000 pop'n.	No. Regd.	Rate per 1,000 Total Births	No. of Deaths Regd.	Rate per 1,000 Total Births	No. of Deaths Regd.	Rate per 1,000 Live Births	No. of Deaths Regd.	Rate per 1,000 Live Births	
	149	18.0	77	9.9	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	8	54	7	47	
Year 1954	113	13.9	110	14.4	7	58	Nil.	Nil.	5	44	4	35	
" 1953	133	16.3	87	10.8	4	29	Nil.	Nil.	4	30	4	30	
" 1952	117	14.6	71	8.9	4	33	Nil.	Nil.	6	51	4	34	
" 1951	117	14.8	116	14.8	1	8	Nil.	Nil.	3	26	2	17	
" 1950	103	12.8	103	12.8	2	19	Nil.	N.I.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	
Ave. 5 yrs 1950-1954	—	14.4	—	12.3	—	29	—	Nil.	—	30	—	23	

In the next Table are shown the chief causes of Death and the number of Deaths from each cause in 1955, with comparative figures for 1954 :—

TABLE II.

	No. of Deaths.			
	1955		1954	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
Tuberculosis—Respiratory	1	—	3	1
Tuberculosis—Other	1	—	—	—
Syphilitic Disease	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infections.....	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—	—
Cancer	9	6	8	5
Leukaemia, Aleukamia	—	—	—	—
Diabetes	—	1	—	2
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	4	5	5	10
Coronary Disease, Angina	6	—	14	1
Hypertension with Heart Disease	—	1	—	1
Other Heart Disease	6	11	11	12
Other Circulatory Disease	—	3	3	1
Influenza	3	1	2	1
Pneumonia	1	—	2	—
Bronchitis	5	—	4	2
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	—	—	1	—
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	—	—	—	—
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	—	—	—	—
Nephritis and Nephrosis	—	—	1	2
Hyperplasia of Prostate	—	—	1	—
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	—	—	—	—
Congenital Malformations	—	1	—	1
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	3	6	7	4
Suicide and Other Violent Causes	1	2	3	2
	40	37	65	45

2.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

LABORATORY ARRANGEMENTS.—Bacteriological examinations are carried out by the Pathological Department of the Wigan Royal Infirmary and the Public Health Laboratory, Preston. The arrangements are satisfactory, a report being received on every examination.

Ten bacteriological examination reports on samples of water were received from the Wigan Royal Infirmary during the year, two of which were found to be unsatisfactory. Four chemical analyses were received from the County Analyst, all of which were satisfactory.

3.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.—The Parishes obtain water supplies from the following sources :—

DALTON	Wrightington Borehole and Spring Water.	
HAIGH	Blackrod U.D.C.	} Upland Surface Water
WORTHINGTON	Various supplies from fringe Authorities	
SHEVINGTON	Standish U.D.C.	
PARBOLD	Own supply Deep Well Water and Spring Water	
ANDERTON'S MILL.....	Chorley R.D.C. Upland Surface Water.	

WATER SHORTAGE.—The Council intends to proceed with a new bulk supply scheme as soon as possible and in the meantime to take a temporary supply from Beechwood Colliery, Wrightington.

TABLE III.

WATER SUPPLIES.

PARISH	Number of Dwelling houses	Supplied by Wigan R.D.C.	Supplied by Other Authorities	No. of Houses without public Water Supply
DALTON	150	114	8 (Up Holland) U.D.C.	28
HAIGH	244	228	15 (Aspull U.D.C.)	1
PARBOLD.....	314	304	—	10
SHEVINGTON	1,172	1,172	—	—
WORTHINGTON	52	2	24 (Standish U.D.C.) 3 (Chorley R.D.C.) 15 (Wigan C.B.C.)	8
WRIGHTINGTON	776	726	(Wrightington 9 Hospital) 1 (Chorley R.D.C.)	40
	2,708	2,546	75	87

Water Consumption Table

Parish	Estimated " Water " Population	Average Daily Consumption (in gallons)			Average Consumption per day per head of " Water " Population.		
		Unmetered	Metered	Supplied to other Districts	Unmetered	Metered	Total
DALTON	350	7,608	7,339	Ormskirk 836	21.74	20.97	42.71
HAIGH	750	14,030	11,480	Aspull 19,720	18.71	15.27	33.98
PARBOLD	880	18,730	2,161	....	21.29	2.46	43.75
SHEVINGTON	3,200	74,130	12,330	....	23.17	3.84	27.01
WRIGHTINGTON	2,700	73,480	15,060	Bispham 5,951	27.21	5.58	32.79
TOTAL	7,880	187,978	48,370	....	23.85	6.12	29.97

Average Daily Total,
Domestic and Trade 236,348

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION (at the end of 1955):—

Number of Privy Middens	192
Number of Closets attached to Privy Middens.....	326
Number of Pail Closets	578
Number of Freshwater Closets	2,008
Number of Dry Ashpits	25
Number of Movable Ashbins	2,138
Number of Houses on Water Carriage System	1,856

During the year 10 privy closets were converted to fresh w.c.s and 8 to pails ; 8 pail closets were converted to fresh w.c.s ; 24 movable ashbins were substituted for fixed receptacles.

The Rural District Council make grants towards the cost of conversions to w.c.s.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Two refuse vehicles with 10 workmen are engaged on Refuse Collection.

Pails are collected by the Council's Cesspool Emptying Vehicle.

CESSPOOL CLEANSING.

A Special Cesspool Emptying Vehicle is engaged on regular cleansing of cesspools and septic tanks. Tipping is carried out on agricultural land when suitable, or otherwise into the public sewer.

SEWERAGE.

The Council have in hand the preparation of a Scheme for the sewerage of Mossy Lea, in the Parish of Wrightington, and are desirous of proceeding with the sewerage of other unsewered areas when an outfall is available.

SHOPS AND OFFICES.

33 inspections were made under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1950 and the Public Health Act, 1936 relating to the ventilation and temperature of shops and offices. Inspections to sanitary conveniences were carried out during the year. The premises generally satisfactory.

CAMPING SITES.

There is one Camping Site in the Rural District.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are none in the District.

DISINFESTATION OF VERMINOUS PREMISES.

One house was found to be infested and was sprayed with D.D.T.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

The manufacture of glue is carried on in the Appley Bridge area. The stocks are inspected regularly and the conditions are satisfactory.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are none in the District.

CANAL BOATS.

No infringements of the Acts were discovered.

SCHOOLS.

The water supply to the Schools in the area is constant and sufficient, and the facilities for handling meals are considered to be satisfactory.

HOUSING.

GENERAL HOUSING CONDITIONS.—Further progress has been made in the closing or reconditioning of old houses where tenants have been re-housed in Council houses. There is now no serious overcrowding in the District.* Many families from other Parishes of the Rural District have been re-housed in the Parish of Shevington, where a further 14 houses were completed during the year and 24 houses and flats were under construction at Mossy Lea, Wrightington, at the end of the year.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

Traditional permanent houses :	Houses.	Flats.
(i) By the Local Authority	26	—
(ii) By other Local Authorities	—	—
(iii) By other bodies and persons	57	—
	<hr/> 83 <hr/>	<hr/> — <hr/>

1.—INSPECTION of dwelling-houses during the year :

(i)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts	320
	(b)	Number of Inspections made for the purpose	350
(ii)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit	25
	(b)	Number at end of year	70
(iii)		Number of dwelling-houses found during the year to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit	54

2.—CLEARANCE AREAS (Housing Act, 1936 and Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954) :

(i)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished during year :—	
	(a) Unfit houses	—
	(b) Other houses	—
(ii)	Number of persons displaced	—

3.—HOUSES NOT INCLUDED IN CLEARANCE AREAS :

(1)	Houses demolished or closed during year :	
(a)	Housing Act, 1936 :—	
	(i) Demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure (Section II).....	3
	(ii) Closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by owners under Section II and still in force....	9
	(iii) Parts of building closed (Section 12)	—

3.—Houses not included in Clearance Areas—*continued* :

(1) (b) Housing Act, 1949—	
(i) Closed as a result of Closing Orders under Sections 3 (1) and 3 (2)	—
(c) Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953—	
(i) Closed as a result of Closing Orders under Sections 10 (1) and 11 (2)	—
(2) Repairs during the year :	
(a) Unfit houses rendered fit and houses in which defects were remedied during the period as a result of informal action under the Housing or Public Health Acts	45
(b) Public Health Acts—Action after service of formal Notice—Houses in which defects were remedied :—	
(i) By Owners.....	2
(ii) By Local Authority in default of Owners.....	—
(c) Housing Act, 1936—Action after service of formal Notice (Sections 9, 10, 11 and 16)— Houses made fit :	
(i) By Owners.....	5
(ii) By Local Authority in default of Owners	—
(d) Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 : Houses reconstructed, enlarged or improved and Demolition Orders revoked (Section 5) ...	—

4.—UNFIT HOUSES IN TEMPORARY USE (Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954) :—

(i) Number of houses at end of year retained for temporary accommodation and approved for grant under Section 7	—
(ii) Number of separate dwellings contained in (i) above.....	—
(iii) Number of houses at end of year licensed for temporary occupation (Section 6)	—

5.—HOUSING ACTS, 1949—1954.—Improvement Grants, etc. :

Number of Schemes submitted :

(a) By private individuals to Local Authority	4
(b) By Local Authority to Ministry	1

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MILK SUPPLY.—An adequate supply of milk is produced within or brought into the district. Six samples of milk were taken and subjected to the biological test for Tuberculosis. All the results were satisfactory.

(b) ICE CREAM.—Twelve inspections of registered premises were carried out during the year and the results were satisfactory. All the premises in the District are registered for the sale of pre-packed ice-cream.

(c) MEAT.—There are two private slaughter-houses in the District, which are inspected regularly.

The following Table shows the number of Carcasses inspected and condemned within the District :—

	Cattle excl. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	—	—	2	140	32	—
Number inspected	—	—	2	140	32	—
All diseases except Tuber- culosis and Cysticerci :						
Whole Carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part of organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	20	2	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuber- culosis and Cysticerci	—	—	—	14%	—	—
Tuberculosis only :						
Whole Carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	2	—
Percentage of number inspec- ted affected with Tuber- culosis	—	—	—	—	6%	—
Cysticerosis :						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

FOOD PREMISES.

Number of food premises, by type of business, in the District at the end of the year :

TYPE OF BUSINESS.	No.
General Grocers.....	22
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	2
Meat Shops	4
Confectioners	4
Fried Fish Shops	2
Sweets, Minerals and Ice-cream	3
Licensed premises, clubs, canteens, restaurants, cafes, snack bars, etc.	40

Number of food premises, by type, registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 :—

Type of Business	No. registered at 31-12-55.	No. of Inspections of registered premises during year.
Ice Cream	10	12

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

2 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year, compared with 14 in 1954. 1 case was removed to hospital.

77 cases of Measles were notified during the year, compared with 183 during 1955. 3 cases of Whooping Cough and 1 case of Pneumonia were notified during the year.

I am pleased to report that there was no outbreak of Food Poisoning in the District during the year.

Free immunisation against Diphtheria is provided for any pre-school or school-child and is performed at the Clinic by the Assistant Divisional Medical Officers or by the General Practitioners in their Surgeries. During 1955, 104 pre-school and 11 school-children completed a full course of primary immunisation with two injections of Alum Precipitated Toxoid. In addition, 7 children were given a secondary or reinforcing injection.

94 pre-school children and 1 school child were immunised against Whooping Cough with Whooping Cough Vaccine only or a combined (Diphtheria-Pertussis or Diphtheria-Tetanus Pertussis) type of prophylactic.

No preliminary and no post-Schick tests were undertaken.

The general standard of cleanliness and habits in the District remains high.

TABLE IV.
NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING 1955.

Disease	Total Ages	Under 1 yr.	1 yr.	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	Un-known	Removed to Hospital
Measles	77	2	7	11	3	8	43	2	1	
Scarlet Fever	2						2			1
Pneumonia	1			1						
Whooping Cough	3			1		1	1			1
TOTALS	83	2	7	13	3	9	46	2	1	2

No action has been taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

It has not been necessary to take any action under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Distribution of Infectious Diseases over the several Parishes was as follows :—

	Cases.	Total No. of Cases.
DALTON :		
Measles	2	
Pneumonia	1	
	—	3
HAIGH :		
Measles	14	
	—	14
PARBOLD :		
Measles	1	
	—	1
SHEVINGTON :		
Measles	34	
Whooping Cough	3	
	—	37
WORTHINGTON :		
Measles	4	
Scarlet Fever	1	
	—	5
WRIGHTINGTON :		
Measles	22	
Scarlet Fever.....	1	
	—	23
		—
		83
		—

CANCER.

15 Deaths, 9 Males and 6 Females, occurred in 1955 compared with 13 Deaths, 8 Males and 5 Females in 1954.

Cancer cases are treated at the Manchester Radium Institute and at the Wigan Infirmary Clinic, which works in close conjunction with the Manchester Unit.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The notifications received during the year under the Public Health (T.B.) Regulations, 1930, were as follows :—

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1955 :

Age Periods	NEW CASES.						DEATHS.	
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
			M.	F.			M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65-over	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Not known	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	2	1	2	—	—	—	—	—

Notification of the Disease is prompt and satisfactory. The Manchester Regional Hospital Board provides facilities for the treatment of Tuberculosis, and these services are fully used and appreciated. The Chest Clinic is in Millgate, Wigan, and patients may be referred there for examination by their own doctor, or by the Assistant Divisional Medical Officer.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948—SECTION 47 :

No cases were dealt with during the year under Section 47 of this Act.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

PART I OF THE ACT.

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors) :—

PREMISES	No. on Register	No. of Inspections	No. of Written Notices
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authorities	26	21	3
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority *(excluding out-workers' premises)	6	5	—
TOTAL	32	26	3

*Electrical Stations (Section 103 (1)), Institutions (Section 104) and sites of Building Operations and Works of Engineering Construction (Sections 107 and 108).

2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND :—

Three cases of insufficient and one case of unsuitable or defective sanitary conveniences (Section 7) were found and remedied.

PART VIII OF THE ACT.

OUTWORK

(SECTIONS 110 AND 111).

The number of out-workers in the August List required by the above Sections was nil.

G. H. POTTER,

Medical Officer of Health.